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Contact: Elizabeth Krueger (307) 283-1361

Date: 05/03/2010

Rattlesnake Project Decision Signed

Sundance, WY – On April 23, 2010, Bearlodge District Ranger Steven J. Kozel approved forest management activities in the Rattlesnake project area.

The Rattlesnake project's purpose is to reduce wildfire hazard and risk of mountain pine beetle infestation, produce commercial timber, improve big game winter range, and conserve late-successional forest.

The Rattlesnake project area is located approximately 10 miles east of Sundance, Wyoming, and includes landmarks such as Dugout Gulch, Boundary Gulch, Rattlesnake Canyon, Cement Ridge, and Sand Creek.

The project area includes the Sand Creek Inventoried Roadless Area. This decision applies only to the 34,227 acres of National Forest System lands outside the Roadless Area. A decision on the Roadless Area will be made later this year.

Approved activities include commercial harvest of ponderosa pine, thinning of small pine, prescribed burning, removal of encroaching pine, other fuel reduction, and watershed improvement projects. Less than one mile of road will be constructed. Road reconstruction and maintenance, logging slash treatment, and noxious weed control are planned.

The Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement are available on request (hardcopy or electronic) from the Bearlodge Ranger District, PO Box 680, Sundance, WY 82729, phone (307) 283-1361. The documents are available on the Black Hills National Forest web site at <http://fs.usda.gov/blackhills/> (follow the "Land and Resources Management" link and then the "Projects" link). For further information, contact Elizabeth Krueger at the Bearlodge Ranger District office.

Implementation of this project may begin in late 2010.